

ROVAC
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

GAE Testimony: February 27, 2012 Submitted by George Cody, Reg. of Voters, New Canaan

HB 5250 AAC THE APPOINTMENT OF PRIMARY POLLING OFFICIALS
HB 5254 AAC CONCERNING PRIMARIES FOR MUNICIPAL OR STATE OFFICE

Submitted in support of HB 5250 AND HB 5254, Testimony Feb. 2012 GAE hearing.

Sen. Slossberg, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Morin, Rep Hwang, and members of the GAE Committee. My name is George Cody, and I would like to speak in favor of two bills before you today . Both proposed bills relate to allowing the Registrars of Voters greater flexibility in the selection and staffing of polling places in Primaries, and carry the endorsement of the Legislative committee of ROVAC.

In towns when small minority parties are involved in a primary, Registrars have on occasion encountered a problem with finding qualified and, in the case of Moderators, certified party members within their own towns and party to staff the primary. The two bills before you deal with this problem by allowing Registrars to use party members outside their town to supplement the staffing.

HB 5250 AAC THE APPOINTMENT OF PRIMARY POLLING OFFICIALS:

Removes the requirement that all polling place officials in a primary be selected from that party's local membership. Under the proposed bill, when an adequate number of trained local officials are not available within that town, then the Registrar has the option of using certified or trained enrolled party members from any municipality in Connecticut.

HB 5254 AAC CONCERNING PRIMARIES FOR MUNICIPAL OR STATE OFFICE:

Proposes additional small changes to polling place setup such as no longer requiring one voting booth for every 500 enrolled party members in the district, and the use of a second tabulator when unaffiliated voters are allowed to participate in a party's Primary would become optional rather than required.

We would recommend the following change to both HB 5254 and HB 5250. We request that the deadline for submission of potential qualified polling place officials by candidates be changed from 10 days to 21 days. 9-249 requires mandatory training of all polling place officials for elections. These statutory requirements should be extended to Primaries. Since these submitted names potentially have less experience, they would require additional training, or in the case of Moderators, certification. In the cities, training is often undertaken before the existing 10-day deadline. The additional time is needed to assure well-trained and qualified polling place officials. Currently, there is no training required for Primary poll workers. ROVAC is asking for language as appears in 9-249 to be inserted to require such training.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to working on these issues.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE CHANG 9-436 'd'

[Names of designees and alternate designees] Suggested names of qualified poll workers, for such positions including the position of Moderator shall be submitted in writing [by party-endorsed candidates and contestants] to the Registrar of Voters not later than [10] 21 days before a primary. [, Except the names of designees and alternate designees for the position of certified Moderator shall be submitted not later than twenty-one days before the primary]

In line 110 after "section" please insert the following text: ALL PROSPECTIVE PRIMARY POLLWORKERS MUST BE PROPERLY TRAINED BY THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS IN THE APPROPRIATE POSITIONS IN ORDER TO SERVE AS POLLWORKERS.